

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /011 R

66612

DRAFTED BY: NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN:EMP

APPROVED BY: NEA/SSOBER

S/S-O: PKJOHNSON

----- 039859

O 040228Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 126781

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 126781 ACTION JIDDA 30 MAY 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 126781

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SA

SU'3:5: CORRUPTION IN SAUDI ARABIA: NORTHROP

REFS: (A) JIDDA 3714; (B) STATE 122311

1. FORMER ARAMCO CHAIRMAN TOM BARGER CALLED ON DEPARTMENT AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS MAY 29 AND 30 TO REVIEW QUESTIONS RAISED BY NORTHROP WITH ACTING SECRETARY ON MAY 22 (REF B). BARGER SAID HE REPRESENTS OUTSIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NOT RESPONSIBLE TO COMPANY'S MANAGEMENT BUT ONLY TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. MEETINGS GAVE US OPPORTUNITY CONVEY EMBASSY'S COMMENTS CONTAINED REF. A.

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2. BARGER WISHES TO CALL ON AMBASSADOR AND THEN ON PRINCE SULTAN BEFORE MEETING WITH ANYONE ELSE AND WOULD THEREFORE LIKE TO MAKE HIS ARRIVAL IN SAUDI ARABIA AS INCONSPICUOUS AS POSSIBLE. HE IS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN JIDDA ON SUNDAY

EVENING AT 8:05 P.M. ON AIR FRANCE FLIGHT 805. HE WOULD HOPE TO BE ABLE TO MEET WITH AMBASSADOR ON MONDAY, JUNE 2. TO AVOID HAVING TO DEAL WITH KHASHOGGI OR NORTHRUP SERVICES TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENTS OR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, BARGER HAS ASKED IF THE EMBASSY COULD MAKE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR HIM AT THE KANDARA PALACE WHEN HE ARRIVES ON SUNDAY. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, HE WOULD LIKE

EMBASSY TO NOTIFY LES MARSH, WHO IS VENTURA REPRESENTATIVE, TO ARRANGE FOR LODGING. BARGER HAS ALSO ASKED THAT EMBASSY MAKE APPOINTMENT FOR HIM TO MEET WITH PRINCE SULTAN AND WITH ANY OTHER SAUDI OFFICIALS AMBASSADOR FEELS HE SHOULD SEE. WE ARE SYMPATHETIC WITH THESE REQUESTS AND WE HOPE EMBASSY CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE.

3. DURING MEETING WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS, BARGER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT IT MIGHT ALSO BE POSSIBLE FOR AMBASSADOR TO ACCOMPANY HIM WHEN HE CALLS ON PRINCE SULTAN. WE INDICATED THAT WHILE U.S. RECOGNIZED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN NORTHRUP'S CONTINUED BUSINESS OPERATIONS IN SAUDI ARABIA, IT SEEMED TO US THAT THIS WAS ESSENTIALLY A PROBLEM TO BE DEALT WITH BY NORTHRUP WITH SAG AND KHASHOGGI, AT LEAST IN FIRST INSTANCE. WE, THEREFORE, BELIEVED AMBASSADOR SHOULD NOT ACCOMPANY BARGER ON HIS CALLS ON SAUDI OFFICIALS. IF SAG WERE TO RAISE QUESTIONS TO US ABOUT NORTHRUP'S NEED TO MAKE DISCLOSURES, USG WOULD OF COURSE PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ANSWERS.

4. BARGER EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EVENTS MIGHT MOVE VERY QUICKLY ONCE SAG AWARE THAT THERE MAY BE PUBLIC DISCLOSURES. HE ASKED IF AMBASSADOR COULD NOT COMMUNICATE POINT TO SAG THAT NORTHRUP DISCLOSURES ARE REQUIREMENTS UNDER U.S. LEGAL PROCESS. WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO INITIATE ANY DISCUSSION WITH SAG ON THIS, BUT IF IT APPEARS SAG MAY REACT HARSHLY AGAINST NORTHRUP AND TAKE PRECIPITATE ACTION AGAINST COMPANY; AMBASSADOR MAY AT HIS DISCRETION MAKE
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POINT RE U.S. LEGAL PROCESS TO SAG.
INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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